

COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES, UNAPPROVED May 24th, 2016 MEETING

Draft unapproved: May 24, 2016

To: All Commission on Aging Members

Re: May 24, 2016 Meeting

Members Present: Claudia Giuliatti, Fran Bartlett, Donna Levine, Joseph P. Villano, Deacon Ronnie Bicknell, Kimberly Yates Carew, Frank Contento, Amee Lunn, Alan Fontana

Members Absent:

Guests: Sandra Mastroianni

Staff Present: Judith Amarone, Director, North Haven Senior Center

- Ellen McDonald, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. on Tuesday, May 24, 2016, on a motion by Claudia Giuliatti, second by Fran Bartlett. The minutes of our last meeting on March 15, 2016 were approved on a motion by Fran Bartlett and a second by Joseph Villano.

Directors Report

March 2 Bingo & Lunch-

This event continues to attract a large crowd, not for the Bingo but for the homemade lunch made by staff. This month vegetable soup, grilled cheese, dessert and beverage was offered and as in the past it was enjoyed by all in attendance. This event will end in May when Hot Dog Fridays begin, another favorite for all.

March 3- Be an Artist for a Day-

This is the first time this program was held and was truly enjoyed by all. Those that participated were charged a fee of \$30 which included their canvas, paints, and classroom instructor. Due to its popularity another session will be offered in June.

March 10 Mini Trip-

A mini trip to the Christmas Tree Shop in Orange was offered. As always this trip is a favorite and the timing was perfect for the members who purchased items for the Easter season.

March 15- Make & Take It Spring Time Runner-

Make and take classes attract the younger members of the Center where a member can make a quilted table runner and complete it in just two classes. This is was led by me where I taught the seniors how to measure, cut, and quilt. No experience is needed which at times can be challenging for those who do not normally sew, however once the project is completed all those that participate left with an accomplished feeling. The next class will be making a tote bag out of an undershirt.

March 16- Irish Soda Bread and St Patrick's Day Breakfast-

Making Irish Soda bread has become an annual tradition at the Center since I started it ten years ago. In years past I would make the bread for the party however due to being the best tasting bread seniors now request to purchase it for home. Funds realized from the bread sale defer the cost of the food for the St. Patrick's Breakfast

March 28- Dental Education & Free Oral Cancer Screening-

This program is titled Senior Smiles and presented by Professors and Dental students from the University of New Haven. All in attendance received an oral exam as well as a ten dollar coupon that would pay for a full cleaning at their school. Those that took advantage of the cleaning at the school received an electric toothbrush.

April 5- Trip: Mohegan Sun-

As with all senior centers casino trips are a favorite for all especially our members since we don't go as often as other centers in the area. The bus leaves at 8:45am and returns after 5pm. Whereas it is a long day for the program coordinator it is a trip that is well like by all.

April 14- Volunteer Luncheon-

In honor of all who provide a service at the Center a special luncheon was held. As a small token of our appreciation all volunteers received a five dollar gift card.

In May IPAD training began for seniors. This opportunity was made possible through a Grant from the Agency on Aging that Angela Bell Infante applied for with assistance from Maggie Goodwin and Judy Amarone. To date seniors are actively learning how to turn on an IPAD and use the keyboard. In June two students will lead the classes continuing with the I Teach You, You Teach Me bridging seniors and youths together.

May 13-Hot Dog Friday began which marked the official day that warm weather is here. This event is very popular as well as affordable for all; two hotdogs, chips, dessert, and beverage for five dollars.

May 19- 4th Annual Art Show at the Agency on Aging- This is the 4th year that members of the Center participated in this outstanding event. Whereas the winner of the show was not a North Haven resident, all who participated were proud and honored to be part of the show.

Old Business:

In behalf of the Commission Claudia Giuliatti drafted a letter to Life Bridge, who runs the Center lunch program, to address the concerns of our seniors regarding the lunches being served at the Senior Center. Kathy, representative from LifeBridge responded to say she will be happy to attend a meeting to discuss the food service. Per feedback from participants in the lunch program, Judy Amarone believes the meal quality has improved and also that there may be a change in the direction of the lunch program to include service at a local restaurant, like is in place with the Greek Olive in New Haven, CT.

New Business:

Upcoming Dates for 2016-17 Commission on Aging

Meeting Dates:

- November 15, 2016
- January 17, 2017
- March 21, 2017

- May 16, 2017
- September 19, 2017
- November 21, 2017

Two food banks, at the North Haven Congregational Church and Community Services, are in need of donations.

Judy Amarone discussed the issue of fraud and scams involving the senior population and asked if the commission members can consider a plan to educate the public. Judy has ordered educational placemats that can be used to inform our members about fraud.

Housing:

Claudia Giullietti had read in a local newspaper article that the plan for reconstruction at Temple Pines and Parkside housing will offer some units with unrestricted age limits. A community meeting is being held at the Joyce C. Budrow Senior Center on June 1, 2016 to present plans for this new construction project.

Public Comment:

Sandra Mastroianni had lunch at the Greek Olive as part of the LifeBridge alternative food program and said it was great.

Having no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m. on a motion by Kimberly Yates Carew and a second by Joseph Villano. The next meeting is scheduled for *Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at 6:00 p.m., Joyce C. Budrow Senior Center, North Haven. If you are unable to attend the next meeting, please contact the Senior Center at 203-239-5432.

***The next meeting date is scheduled for Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 6:00 p.m., Joyce C. Budrow Senior Center, North Haven.**